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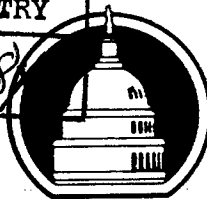
THE  
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# CONGRESS DAILY

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Tuesday, May 17, 1988

## Today's Highlights

**Floor Action.** The House will consider four bills under suspension of the rules, including HR 3651, prohibiting the export of military equipment to countries supporting international terrorism and requiring more detailed reporting of arms exports by the executive branch.

Members then will take up the \$17.8 billion fiscal 1989 appropriations bill (HR 4567), funding the Department of Energy and federal water projects.

The Senate will continue work on the Defense Department authorization (S 2355). Members may begin debate on ratification of the INF treaty.

**Polygraph Conference.** House and Senate conferees meet to begin work on a bill (HR 1212) to ban most uses of polygraphs by private-sector employers.

The bill would bar employers from using polygraph tests to screen job applicants and to make random checks of workers' honesty.

The House bill would ban use of lie-detector tests in private employment, except to screen security personnel. The Senate bill would ban indiscriminate testing of employees and job applicants, but would permit such testing at nuclear power plants, security firms and in certain other circumstances.

The administration opposes the House version of the bill, but has taken no firm position on the Senate version.

**Small Business Markup.** The Senate Small Business Committee will mark up a bill (S 1993) to reform the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Section 8 (a) program, which provides federal contracts and business develop-

ment resources to minority-owned and disadvantaged firms.

A study done in the 99th Congress showed that 30 percent of firms participating in the program went out of business once they were no longer receiving federal contracts.

S 1993 would wean firms from the program by limiting participation to a maximum of eight years and by requiring competitive bidding for certain federal contracts.

The committee also will mark up a draft bill reauthorizing SBA programs for fiscal 1989 at fiscal 1988 levels.

**U.S.-Canada Free Trade.** The House Ways and Means Committee will begin drafting legislation to implement the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement. The Senate Finance Committee began drafting its bill last week.

Both committees hope to make enough progress to have an unofficial "conference" during the week of May 23, where the basics of the final bill can be agreed upon.

Members hope to work out problems in advance, so the bill will have smooth sailing once it is formally introduced.

**AIDS Markup.** The House Energy Health Subcommittee may mark up draft legislation that would for the first time

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## Yesterday

**SENATE FLOOR:** Defense bill snagged by drug amendment.

Senators moved closer to final action on the fiscal 1989 defense authorization bill (S 2355), but a proposal calling for the death penalty for drug-related murders threatened to stall or kill the bill's chances for passage. Members refused. 27-68, to table the amendment by Alfonse M. D'Amato, R-N.Y.

Senate leaders agreed to finish work on all other amendments by 10 a.m. this morning. But opponents of the death penalty measure said approval of that amendment could kill the bill, or at least delay its clearance for months.

Senators rejected amendments requiring the administration to submit for Senate approval the U.S.-U.S.S.R. agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and requiring the Navy to reopen bidding for construction of destroyers.

**Finance panel acts on U.S.-Canada trade pact.**

The Senate Finance panel approved steps to protect the plywood, potato and lobster-fishing industries in implementation of a U.S.-Canada trade agreement.

Members also voted to authorize the attorney general to sue states that refuse to change state laws that are inconsistent with the pact.

The committee will continue work on the agreement Wednesday.

**U.S. has not lost ground on INF treaty, Shultz assures members.**

Secretary of State George P. Shultz and chief U.S. arms negotiator Max M. Kampelman assured the Senate Foreign Relations panel that the United States made no concessions to the Soviets last week when the two sides met to resolve Senate objections to the INF treaty.

"We got what we wanted and what we needed," Kampelman told the panel.

The two witnesses repeatedly assured the senators that no new agreements were reached, but that ambiguous portions of the treaty were clarified.

The secretary of state disputed press reports that the Soviets were already violating the INF treaty. He pointed out that they could not break the treaty if it had not been ratified. Secondly, he said the test cited in press reports seemed to be of missiles with ranges below the threshold set in the treaty.



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